

heinously murdering Jessica Lunsford? I don't believe it would have.

Our children deserve strong anti-pedophilia laws that meet basic constitutional thresholds and it's our responsibility to deliver that to them. Therefore I implore my Senate colleagues to step up and give the presence of the Conyers language in H.R. 3132 the scrutiny that it warrants. Should they pass a clean Children's Safety Act, I look forward to removing the Conyers language in conference and supporting the clean Conference Report.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN A. REICH—
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT
EMERITUS OF THE NATIONAL
ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to my dear friend Alan A. Reich, who retired recently as President of the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.), which he founded. For the past 23 years, Alan provided extraordinary leadership as the leader of NOD, which is one of the leading non-governmental organizations promoting disability rights in the United States and, through its World Committee on Disability, around the world as well. Alan retired earlier this year after nearly a quarter century of extraordinary leadership, and he has been named President Emeritus of the organization.

Mr. Speaker, Alan Reich has been an outstanding human rights and disability rights leader, whose courageous work has had an impact on people with disabilities around the world. In recognition of his leadership, President George H.W. Bush awarded Alan the George Bush Medal in a ceremony at the Kennedy Center here in Washington on July 25 of this year. The George Bush Medal recognizes leaders who seek to fulfill the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to all Americans and who encourage the spirit of the ADA throughout the world. The award ceremony in July was held in connection with the 15th anniversary of the signing of the ADA by President George H.W. Bush in 1990.

Alan certainly epitomizes the high goals of the ADA, and I cannot imagine a more fitting

recipient of this award. In commenting on Alan's extraordinary leadership, former President Bush said: "As the Honorary Chairman of N.O.D. and its World Committee, I've observed first-hand Alan's tenacious commitment to providing hope and opportunity for millions of people with disabilities, not only in this country but also worldwide."

Mr. Speaker, Alan Reich joined the disability community over 40 years ago as a result of a swimming accident, and he has used a wheelchair since that time, but he refused to permit his disability to constrain his boundless energy and commitment to worthy causes. Alan has been at the center of progress on disability issues—including public awareness, disability programs and promoting important legislation—and has made groundbreaking contributions toward uniting and engaging the community of people with disabilities. His outstanding abilities to move disability rights issues forward first became apparent as the founder of the U.S. Council for the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981. He became the first wheelchair user to address the United Nations General Assembly when he called on the international organization to declare 1981 the U.N. International Year of Disabled Persons.

While President of N.O.D., Alan built the coalition of disability groups that successfully fought for the inclusion of a statue of former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his wheelchair at the FDR Memorial in Washington, DC. He also spearheaded the critical survey research with Harris Poll Surveys that tracks the progress of Americans with disabilities in key areas of life. In addition, Alan is the founder and Chairman of the World Committee on Disability—the international arm of N.O.D., which further underscores the worldwide reach of his contributions. He is a founder of the World Committee's Franklin D. Roosevelt International Disability Award, which recognizes nations for progress toward the United Nations' goals for disabled persons. I should add, Mr. Speaker, that my wife Annette and I are honored to be members of the World Committee on Disability.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, Oxford University and Harvard University, and former all-American track star and varsity football player, Alan has had a distinguished career in the business, government, and nonprofit sectors. Alan served as U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs. In this position, he developed international exchange programs to further mutual

understanding. He also held the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for East-West Trade and Director of the Bureau of East-West Trade, where he was credited with the expansion of U.S. commercial relations with the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe. Prior to his outstanding career as a public servant, Alan was an executive in manufacturing management and corporate long-range planning with the Polaroid Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation and the appreciation of this house to Alan Reich for his dedication and commitment to securing the equal participation and full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. In many capacities, Alan has changed the world's approach to disability and made groundbreaking contributions to uniting the disability movement. For that, our entire nation is deeply grateful to him and extends every good wish to him and his family.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
ELIZABETH ROSE LAPIERRE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Amy Rose and Steve LaPierre of Fairfax, Virginia, on the birth of their beautiful baby girl. Elizabeth Rose LaPierre was born on September 14, 2005, at 1:50 p.m., weighing 7 pounds and 12 ounces. She has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 13, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 465, 466, and 467. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.